

apply to the program. Since the program's inception in July 2010, 69 percent of applications have been denied because individuals had creditable coverage within 6 months of applying.

While well-intentioned, this wait period has shown adverse effects by incentivizing people with pre-existing conditions to go uninsured for 6 months to qualify for the program. Individuals who lost their health insurance through no fault of their own and can no longer find coverage must wait 6 months to apply, thus exposing themselves to high out-of-pocket medical costs and unnecessary health risks. Unfortunately, because they go without insurance for such an extended period of time, they enter the program with a need for immediate care and cost more to the program.

Furthermore, considering mini medical plans as creditable coverage also encourages individuals to go with absolutely no coverage for 6 months in order to apply to PCIP. Mini medical plans are basic plans that may pay for portions of a doctor's visit or prescription drug, but do not provide catastrophic coverage or enough benefits for people with pre-existing conditions. Individuals who choose to obtain such a plan within 6 months of applying for PCIP to limit their medical liabilities will no longer be eligible for the program.

Such a misfortune happened to one of my constituents who lost his health insurance when he lost his job and has been denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition since then. In June 2010, he received limited coverage through a mini medical plan that did not cover his pre-existing condition. When he applied to PCIP in September 2011, his application was denied because he had such plan within 6 months of applying. The only way for him to qualify was to go completely uninsured for 6 months. I cannot, in good conscience, advise my constituents in need of immediate care to wait 6 months to seek medical coverage.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will address these serious issues by eliminating the 6-month wait period and excluding mini medical plans from creditable coverage. My bill will bring us on step closer to ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality health care for all Americans. I urge my colleagues to help make PCIP a more successful program by supporting this important legislation.

HONORING DR. ROBERT LIGHTFOOT, RECIPIENT OF THE SAMUEL BUFORD WORD AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Robert Dickson Lightfoot, for being awarded the Samuel Buford Word Award. This is the highest award given by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama in recognition of service to humanity beyond the usual scope of medical practice.

Dr. Lightfoot is a fourth-generation physician who graduated with honors from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1981 and completed a general and vascular surgery residency at the University of Kentucky Medical Center in 1986. He later returned to

school receiving a Bachelors of Science in Psychology in 1997.

After participating in several medical mission trips to Central and South America, Dr. Lightfoot and his wife, Tami, realized a need for affordable, quality primary adult health care in their own community. Out of this need, Dr. Lightfoot founded Victory Health Partners in Mobile, Alabama, in 2000 and began seeing patients in 2003 with incomes less than 300 percent of the federal poverty line.

What began as an act of faith by one physician and his wife has now turned into a fully functional partnership involving hundreds of volunteers, medical providers, and churches. The clinic has grown from seeing 12 patients on its first day in 2003, to serving more than 18,000 in this past year. The clinic's patients come over 20 counties in Alabama, eight in Mississippi, and four in Northwest Florida. In the past decade, Dr. Lightfoot has seen Victory Health Partners expand to offer dental and eye care, as well as wound care and diabetic classes for adults.

Dr. Lightfoot has devoted his life to medicine and providing healthcare to the needy. Through his brilliant acts of generosity, faith, and dedication to his community, Dr. Lightfoot is an accomplished physician who has earned the respect of his patients, staff and colleagues.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I wish to extend a personal thank you and congratulations to Dr. Lightfoot on his monumental achievement and selfless acts of generosity for the people of South Alabama and surrounding areas. May God continue to bless him, his staff and all those they serve.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Although nine other states have passed similar abortion bans, this is the first attempt to pass a law of this kind on a federal level. However, even the nine state laws include at least a narrow exception to protect women's health. This bill unfairly singles out the District of Columbia, but more importantly it lacks any health exceptions to the ban. Pregnancy can become dangerous, sometimes even life-threatening. This bill fails to provide women with necessary health exceptions to save their lives or their ability to have children in the future.

In addition to not protecting women who are pregnant, H.R. 3803 fails to provide exceptions in instances of rape or incest, even when it involves young girls. About 25,000 women become pregnant due to rape each year and about 30 percent of rape cases involve women under 18. This bill falls short in providing the necessary protections for these women.

I would have voted against H.R. 3803. Unfortunately my plane was delayed due to

weather coming in to Washington, DC, causing me to miss the vote. I have been a strong supporter for women's health in the past and I plan to continue to do so.

COMMENDING THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the first graduating class of North Hunterdon Regional High School in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The class of 1952 celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

As a graduate of North Hunterdon Regional High School and as the Representative for New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District, I have had the honor to observe the growth and expansion of the school's educational excellence. North Hunterdon continues to excel as one of our Nation's top high schools. In 2002, the Department of Education awarded North Hunterdon the Blue Ribbon of Academic Excellence Award and it was recently highly ranked by the Washington Post.

The class of 1952 began an outstanding tradition of academic achievement at North Hunterdon Regional High School that has continued for sixty years. I am proud to honor my alma mater and I thank the first graduating class for commencing these celebrations.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF EMMA SHAW

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to congratulate Emma Shaw, a beloved and respected community member of San Bernardino, who is celebrating her 100th Birthday on August 9, 2012.

Born in Tallulah, Louisiana, Emma was raised and began her education in Louisiana where she attended Madison Parish Training School. During her schooling, she met her future husband George Shaw, whom she married on February 6, 1933.

Emma and George Shaw lived in Tallulah for nine years, until moving to Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1942 in search of a better life for their family. Two years later, in 1944, the family moved to San Bernardino, California, where the Shaw family has resided since.

In San Bernardino, George Shaw worked hard as a construction worker, and was also the only African American barber in San Bernardino for many years. Emma worked as a housekeeper to help provide for her 11 children. Although times were tough and money was tight, Emma always found extra time and resources to give back to her community and those in need.

Since moving to San Bernardino, Emma and her family have been active members at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, and later the Greater New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ. Emma is known for her kindness and generosity; all who know Emma affectionately call her "Mother Shaw". Emma